

DRUG ADDICTION AND HIV INFECTION AMONGST MALE ADDICTS IN MALAYSIA, 1994

HUBUNGAN JANGKITAN HIV DAN PENAGIHAN DADAH DI KALANGAN PENAGIH DADAH LELAKI DI MALAYSIA, 1994

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ABSTRACT

Eighty percent of the HIV infected persons in Malaysia are drug addicts. This case control study was conducted amongst drug addicts aged 20-40 years from Rawang Drug Rehabilitation Centre, Selangor in January 1994. The objective of this study is to identify the high-risk behaviour pattern that can help explain the transmission of HIV among drug addicts. It is hoped that with this information, an appropriate strategy can be formulated in planning the preventive measures for the high-risk group and the public as a whole. The study sample was chosen by stratified random sampling. The cases included 87 HIV seropositives and by frequency matching for age and ethnicity, 261 HIV seronegatives were chosen as the control group. Self-administered questionnaires were circulated to be answered immediately. Findings of this study showed that 59.8 % of the subjects use drugs intravenously of which 71.2% share needles. A total of 92.3% of cases share needles as compared to 58.5% from the control group ($p < 0.0001$). The high-risk behaviors associated with HIV seropositivity were needle-sharing (O.R = 8.53; 95% C.I = 2.10- 6.56), sex with prostitutes (O.R = 3.70; 95% CI = 2.10- 6.56), homosexuality (O.R = 4.05; 95% C.I = 1.49- 11.11) and non-condom use during sex with prostitutes (O.R = 2.27 ; 95% C.I = 1.05 -4.97). When needle-sharing behavior was compared amongst the 3 races, the Malay addicts were found to be 33 times more likely to contract the disease if they shared needles 5 times more at risk if they had Sexual relations with prostitutes as compared to the other races. Analysis also showed that more cases than controls came from broken families ($p < 0.05$), had disciplinary action taken against them at school ($p < 0.05$) or were detained by police for various offences committed while still schooling ($p < 0.05$). The mean age when they started smoking cigarettes was 16.6 :! 3.4 years and for trying drugs was 20.9 :! 4.2 years. On the average, more than 50% had used drugs or visited prostitutes or had sexual contacts with their girlfriends by the time they were 20 years old. All drug addicts in the drug treatment and rehabilitation program should not only be adequately informed about HIV/AIDS, but also be motivated to change their high-risk practices so that HIV transmission can be reduced.

ABSTRAK

Lapan puluh peratus kes jangkitan HIV di Malaysia terdiri dari golongan penagih dadah. Kajian kes kontrol ini dijalankan di kalangan penagih dadah berumur antara 20-40 tahun dari Pusat Serenti Rawang, Selangor pada bulan Januari 1994. Tujuan kajian adalah untuk mengenalpasti corak penglibatan penagih-penagih dadah dalam aktiviti-aktiviti berisiko tinggi berkaitan HIV agar dapat membantu negara membentuk strategi yang sesuai dalam merancang langkah-langkah pencegahan untuk kumpulan berisiko tinggi dan juga masyarakat keseluruhannya. Sampel dipilih secara pensampelan rawak berstrata. Sejumlah 87 kes (HIV seropositif) dan 261 kontrol (HN seronegatif) yang dipilih secara pemadanan frekuensi untuk umur dan etnik telah menjawab borang soal selidik yang dikemukakan. Hasil kajian menunjukkan bahawa 59.8% dari subjek menagih secara suntikan yang mana 71.2% daripada mereka berkongsi jarum. Seramai 92.3% kes berbanding 58.5% dari kontrol berkongsi jarum ($p < 0.0001$). Amalan-amalan yang menunjukkan hubungan bermakna dengan jangkitan HIV ialah berkongsi jarum suntikan (O.R = 8.53 ; 95% S.K = 3.36 -25.52), hubungan seks dengan pelacur (O.R = 3.70 ; 95% S.K = 2.10- 6.56), hubungan homoseksual (O.R = 4.05; 95% S.K = 1.49- 11.11) dan tidak mengguna kondom sesama mengadakan seks dengan pelacur (O.R = 2.27 ; 95% S.K = 1.05 -4.97). Dalam amalan berkongsi jarum antara kaum Melayu, India dan Cina, didapati penagih dadah Melayu menghadapi risiko tiga puluh tiga kali ganda lebih tinggi untuk dijangkiti HIV jika berkongsi jarum. Penagih dadah Melayu juga menghadapi risiko lima kali lebih tinggi jika mengadakan hubungan seks dengan pelacur. Didapati juga lebih ramai kes mempunyai latarbelakang keluarga yang telah bercerai berbanding kontrol ($p < 0.05$). Majoriti daripada kes pernah dikenakan tindakan disiplin berbanding kontrol ($p < 0.05$) atau ditangkap oleh polis kerana melakukan jenayah ($p < 0.05$) semasa masih di bangku sekolah. Min umur mula menghisap rokok di kalangan penagih dadah ialah 16.6 :! 3.4 tahun dan mula mencuba dadah pada umur 20.9 :! 4.2 tahun. Purata lebih dari 50% penagih telah mencuba dadah atau mengadakan hubungan seks, samada dengan pelacur atau teman wanita menjelang umur 20 tahun. Semua penagih dadah dalam program rawatan dan pemulihan bukan sahaja patut dilengkapi dengan pengetahuan HIV I AIDS secukupnya, tetapi juga dipupuk sikap positif untuk mengubah tingkahlaku berisiko tinggi berkaitan HIV agar penularan jangkitan HIV dapat dibendung.